

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 DLOS-06 COA-02 EB-11 COME-00

INT-08 CG-00 SSO-00 /141 W
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P 121530Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3240

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

USCINCSO

S E C R E T MANAGUA 0153

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO, NU

SUBJECT: HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR DISPUTE

REF: STATE 003077

1. I DISCUSSED WITH GON GENERAL SOMOZA THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SUBJECT RAISED IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF REFTEL. GENERAL SOMOZA SAID THAT HE WAS NOT PERSONALLY FAMILIAR WITH WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED TO, OR WHAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE AT THE MEETING AT ANTIGUA IN THE MIDDLE OF 1972. HE SAID THAT IN HIS VARIOUS TALKS WITH THE FONMINS, WHO IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING HAD MET AT ANTIGUA, THAT NO REFERENCES HAD BEEN MADE BY THEM TO ANY AGREEMENTS OR PROGRESS WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN MADE AT THAT PARTICULAR MEETING. SOMOZA FURTHER STATED THAT NEITHER PRESIDENTS MOLINA OR LOPEZ, OR THEIR SUBORDINATES HAD MADE ANY REFERENCES TO HAVING BEEN INFORMED OF DISCUSSIONS AT THE ANTIGUA MEETING, DURING SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS OF THE TWO PRESIDENTS IN WHICH HE HAD PARTICIPATED. SOMOZA

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EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE IN HIS VIEW OF RECOGNIZING THE DIFFERENT

"CAST OF CHARACTERS" WHO WERE PROBABLY INVOLVED IN THAT MEETING AND THOSE PRESENTLY INVOLVED IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS. SOMOZA SAID THAT IF MEMORY SERVED HIM CORRECTLY, ALFREDO PUERTO WAS FOREIGN MINISTER OF HONDURAS AT THAT TIME, AND WAS PROBABLY MORE PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO REACHING A SOLUTION REGARDING BORDER AREAS THAN EITHER BATRES OR GALINDA POHL SINCE THE LATTER IS A RATHER "LEGALLY INCLINED INDIVIDUAL".

2. SOMOZA THEN RETRACED THE HISTORY OF THE EFFORTS THAT HE HAD MADE TO BRING THESE TWO COUNTRIES TOGETHER BEGINNING ESPECIALLY WITH THE MEETING BETWEEN FORMER PRESIDENT SANCHEZ AND NEWLY ELECTED MOLINA OF SALVADOR WITH GENERAL LOPEZ AND GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT ARANA ON SOMOZA'S BOAT IN THE GULF OF FONSECA. AT THAT TIME, ACCORDING TO SOMOZA, FIRM AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED AS TO MEANS OF HAVING A THIRD PARTY ("PROBABLY AN AUSTRALIAN") BROUGHT IN TO "ARBITRATE" A PREVIOUSLY AGREED UPON BORDER POSITION. THIS SOLUTION SOMOZA SAID HAD BEEN STYMIED BY THE INTRANSIGENCE, OF HONDURAN PRESIDENT CRUZ, AND THE LACK OF DESIRE OF MOLINA TO TAKE AGGRESSIVE ACTION IMMEDIATELY AFTER ASSUMING THE SALVADORIAN PRESIDENCY.

3. SOMOZA FULLY AGREES THAT THE BASIC PROBLEM OF A MEETING, SUCH AS THAT AT JALAPA, HAS BEEN THAT THE HONDURAN AND SALVADORIAN CHIEFS OF STATE HAVE AGREED AND THEIR SUBORDINATES HAVE THEN FAILED TO CARRY OUT THESE AGREEMENTS FOR WHATEVER REASONS.

4. SOMOZA HAD BEEN INFORMED BY AMBASSADOR SEVILLA SACASA OF THE FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF HONDURAN FONMIN BATRES AND SOMOZA HAD INSTRUCTED SEVILLE SACASA TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO BATRES THAT HE, SOMOZA, HAD EMPHASIZED TO MOLINA THAT IT WAS CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT THAT MOLINA NOT ENGAGE IN STALLING TACTICS AND THAT NICARAGUA WOULD SUPPORT THE DELAY OF FINAL AGREEMENT UNTIL AFTER THE MARCH ELECTIONS IN SALVADOR ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE CARRIED ON IN THE MEANTIME, AND THAT THE ELECTIONS NOT BE USED FOR DELAYING PURPOSES.

5. SOMOZA BELIEVES THAT THE BEST OPPORTUNITY NOW LIES IN THE MEETING WHICH HE HOPES TO HAVE BETWEEN NOW AND THE FIRST OF FEBRUARY WITH MOLINA AND LOPEZ PRESENT WITH BOTH THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THEIR NEGOTIATORS, AND IN THE PRESENCE OF ARANA AND FIGUERES,
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HAMMER OUT AN AGREEMENT WHICH THE CHIEFS OF STATE OF EL SALVADOR AND HONRURAS WILL SEECPFICALLY INSTRUCT BOTH THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THEIR NEGOTIATORS TO STRICTLY ADHERE TO AT A MEETING TO BE CALLED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SALVADOR ELECTIONS.

6. SOMOZA AGREES THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT AGREEMENTS WHICH ARE MADE BETWEEN THE CHEFS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES BE MADE IN THE PRESENCE OF THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THEIR NEGOTIATORS, IN ORDER THAT

THERE MAY BE NO QUESTION IN THE FUTURE AS TO WHAT THEIR SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTIONS ARE, AND THAT THESE INSTRUCTIONS BE BOTH FIRM AND SPECIFIC. ALL OF THE CHIEFS OF STATE INVOLVED HAVE AGREED TO THE MEETING, ACCORDING TO SOMOZA. HE HAS DELAYED PRESSING FOR THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS FOR A PRECISE DATE IN VIEW OF THE TENSION PRESENTLY EXISTING BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS OVER THE ALLEGED SHOOTING INCIDENT INVOLVING FISHERMEN IN THE GULF OF FONSECA.

7. SOMOZA SAID THAT PRESIDENT MOLINA CALLED HIM IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS INCIDENT WAS REPORTED AND APPEARED CONSIDERABLY "EXORCISED", MOLINA STATED THAT HE WOULD GET ALL OF THE DETAILS AND THEN ASK HIM TO CONTACT GENERAL LOPEZ REGARDING THE MATTER. SOMOZA HAS TALKED TO MOLINA SUBSEQUENTLY, BUT MOLINA HAS NOT RAISED THE FISHING INCIDENT

AGAIN AND SOMOZA BELIEVES THAT IT WILL DISSIPATE.

FYI: I GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT SOMOZA FEELS THAT PRESIDENT MOLINA IS A LITTLE "EDGEY", POSSIBLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS AND SOMOZA SAYS THAT HE IS DOING EVERYTHING HE POSSIBLY CAN TO ENSURE THAT MOLINA DOES NOT BECOME "OVER-EXCITED". END FYI.

8. I BELIEVE THAT SOMOZA IS FULLY AWARE OF THE NEED TO HAVE THE LOPEZ AND MOLINA DISCUSSIONS EAL WITH SPECIFICS, AND I WILL CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THIS POINT TO HIM.
SHELTON

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NNN

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